be names found at approximately the same number of generations back common to two or to three genealogical lines if tradition has it that at that period there was migration and inter-marriage, and of great events involving several islands there should be a common tradition in those islands. In a word, we are dealing with oral trails blazed into the past, which intersect and separate again, which for long periods run parallel, from which branch trails put out, but which terminate at one point. If it can be shewn that there has not been collaboration or collusion, then an expert examination should at once establish and check Polynesian history.

In a short chapter it is obvious that no proof of these things can be attempted, but the labour of such men as Mr. Percy Smith has shewn precisely that this has been done. For example, he relates a fascinating story of his interview with an old man of Raratonga, ninety-six or so,

who had
been taught the story of the sailing of
the great
fleet to New Zealand before Raratonga
had been
brought into touch with the outside
world since
the middle of the fourteenth century.
Beyond